

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for navigating a large amount of data, said method

comprising:

5 accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;

displaying a grid on a display device, said grid being an iconic representation  
of said formatted warehoused data, said grid comprising elements, each element  
corresponding to some portion of said formatted warehoused data; and

10 displaying a portion of said formatted warehoused data on said display device  
in response to a selection of a corresponding element of said grid.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein content server timeouts  
are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

15 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said warehoused data is  
formatted in a cross-tabular manner.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said portion of said  
formatted warehoused data is indicated by a distinctive marking of said  
20 corresponding element of said grid.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein only said portion of said formatted warehoused data is downloaded to said display device in response to said selection.

6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a different portion of  
5 said formatted warehoused data is displayed on said display device by selecting a different element of said grid.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a graphical user  
interface (GUI) comprising a cursor and scrolling arrows is also displayed on said  
10 display device.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein a different portion of  
said formatted warehoused data is displayed by utilizing said GUI to navigate  
within said grid and to select a different element of said grid.

9. A device comprising:  
  
a bus;  
  
a display coupled with said bus;  
  
a memory unit coupled with said bus; and  
  
20 a processor coupled with said bus, said processor for executing a method for  
navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:

accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;

displaying a grid on said display, said grid being an iconic  
representation of said formatted warehoused data, said grid comprising  
elements, each element corresponding to some portion of said formatted  
warehoused data; and

displaying a portion of said formatted warehoused data on said display  
in response to a selection of a corresponding element of said grid.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein content server timeouts are  
prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

11. The device of Claim 9, wherein said warehoused data is formatted  
in a cross-tabular manner.

12. The device of Claim 9, wherein said portion of said formatted  
warehoused data is indicated by a distinctive marking of said corresponding  
element of said grid.

13. The device of Claim 9, wherein only said portion of said formatted  
warehoused data is downloaded in response to said selection.

14. The device of Claim 9, wherein a different portion of said formatted warehoused data is displayed on said display by selecting a different element of said grid.

5 15. The device of Claim 9, wherein a graphical user interface (GUI) comprising a cursor and scrolling arrows is also displayed on said display.

16. The device of Claim 15, wherein a different portion of said formatted warehoused data is displayed by utilizing said GUI to navigate within said grid and to select a different element of said grid.

17. A method for navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:

accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;

15 distilling said formatted warehoused data into a plurality of hierarchical overviews, wherein a hierarchical overview comprises a subtotal of selected entries from said formatted warehoused data; and

receiving a hierarchical overview in response to a first inquiry.

20 18. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein content server timeouts are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

19. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein warehoused data is formatted in a cross-tabular manner.

20. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein said device is a  
5 communications device.

21. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein information about said selected entries is received in response to a subsequent inquiry.

22. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein inquiries and responses  
10 to inquiries are conveyed audibly according to a voice-based communications protocol.

23. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein a response to an inquiry  
15 is displayed.

24. A device comprising:  
a bus;  
a memory unit coupled with said bus; and  
20 a processor coupled with said bus, said processor for executing a method for navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:

accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;

distilling said formatted warehoused data into a plurality of

hierarchical overviews, wherein a hierarchical overview comprises a subtotal

of selected entries from said formatted warehoused data; and

5 receiving a hierarchical overview in response to a first inquiry.

25. The device of Claim 24, wherein content server timeouts are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

10 26. The device of Claim 24, wherein warehoused data is formatted in a cross-tabular manner.

27. The device of Claim 24, wherein said device is a communications device.

15 28. The device of Claim 24, wherein information about said selected entries is received in response to a subsequent inquiry.

29. The device of Claim 24, wherein inquiries and responses to inquiries  
20 are conveyed audibly according to a voice-based communications protocol.

30. The device of Claim 28, wherein a response to an inquiry is displayed.

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